

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas


TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, George W. Bush, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove and veto Senate Bill 1175 because of the following objections:

Senate Bill 1175 is harmful to sexual assault victims. The Bill provides that the communications between a sexual assault victim and the victim's advocate are legally confidential and privileged. Because a defendant has a constitutional right to confront and cross-examine witnesses with prior statements, this privilege is unconstitutional. If a defendant is precluded from cross-examining a victim about prior statements, then all of the victim's statements may be excluded on appeal. Consequently, without any testimony from the victim, the prosecutor may be forced to dismiss the case.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 16th day of June, 1995.




George W. Bush
Governor of Texas